CONTENTS

楽園の泉　5

フェノメナ　45

EREHWON　89

EREHWON Ⅱ　131

星々の荒野から　171

あとがき　211

新装版あとがき　212

深夜＋1　Ⅰ　214

深夜＋1　Ⅱ　217

楽園の泉

FOUNTAINS IN A PARADISE

楽園の泉
ラクエンノイズミ
the fountains in paradise
inariya fusanosuke

Fusanosuke Inariya

稲荷家房之介

楽園の泉

THE FOUNTAINS IN A PARADISE

ZERO COMICS

楽園の泉

稲荷家房之介

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リブレ出版

壊れるまで、主人に仕え続ける美しい「存在」——…!!

「愛」「執着」「絆」…それらを超えた情動、何者にも逆らえない絶対的な「崇拝」を描いた珠玉の傑作集。待望の描き下ろし付き!!

新装版

新装版用に特別新作描き下ろし付

that thirst,
burning for
a hundred
years.

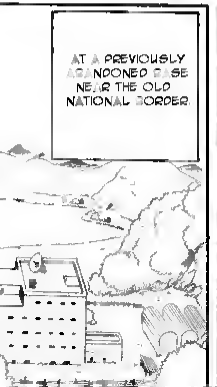
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!?
GET BACK TO YOUR POSITION!!
RYUUJI?!
SORRY, BUT I HAVE TO...
RYUUJI!!!
WHATEVER IT COSTS- HE- I HAVE TO...
ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME!?

NOH!
THE BARRIER!!
IN THE FOREST!!
GET BACK!!
RYUUJI?!
DON'T GO UP THERE ALONE!!

THAT'S...

ARUKEMEIA.
SO, WHAT ABOUT THIS, FOR EXAMPLE?

SAY THEY REQUIRE SOMETHING OTHER THAN MICE OR MONKEYS, SOMETHING MORE SIMILAR IN FORM TO A HUMAN BEING-
WITHOUT EXPERIMENTING ON A LIVING PERSON
TAKE EXPERIMENTS INVOLVING THE STRUCTURE OF THE HUMAN BODY ILLNESSES, OR OTHER THINGS OF THAT NATURE-
WHAT WOULD YOU DO?


AT A PREVIOUSLY ABANDONED BASE NEAR THE OLD NATIONAL BORDER.

MY CELL WAS NEXT DOOR TO THE AREA FOR HOUSING SPECIAL PRISONERS OF WAR.
I WAS SERVING TWO DAYS IN AN ISOLATION CELL FOR A MINOR VIOLATION OF ORDERS

THIS IS EVEN MORE TEDIOUS THAN MY REGULAR DUTY
IT'S TORTURE
MY UNIT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING COMMUNICATIONS CABLE, SO WE WERE ONLY A SMALL FORCE
ALTHOUGH RECENTLY I'VE BEEN THINKING THE ARMY IS ACTUALLY PRETTY BORING ALL THE TIME
BUT THERE WASN'T ANY EXCITEMENT HERE EITHER
I HADN'T BEEN ABLE TO FIND A JOB IN TOWN OR ON THE NET THAT WASN'T TOO ROUTINE FOR ME THAT WAS WHY I JOINED UP
COME TO THINK OF IT, ON THIS WHOLE DEPLOYMENT, THERE HASN'T BEEN ANY FIGHTING AT ALL!

I'M SO FREAKIN' BORED.
WHAT DID YOU DO TO END UP HERE?
NOTHING MUCH-
HM.
WHY ADMIT I JUST SNUCK OUT TO TOWN FOR A LITTLE FUN?
WHAT'S THAT SOUND?
IT'S SMALL ARMS FIRE! ABOUT FIVE KM FROM HERE!
HEY!!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
IS IT AN ENEMY ATTACK?!
I'LL HELP!!
DON'T WORRY- IT'S PROBABLY NOTHING!
SHIT
BE A GOOD PRISONER AND MEDITATE OR SOMETHING

ARE YOU A CIVILIAN?
WHY DID THEY PUT YOU IN HERE WITH CHAINS STILL ON?
THAT'S RIGHT
ARE YOU IN MID-TRANSFER TO SOMEWHERE ELSE?
THAT SOUNDS LIKE A CHAIN.
WHAT? THAT TALK ABOUT EXPERIMENTS? IS THAT AN INTEREST OF YOURS?
I'll pass, thanks
IT'S BORING
NO. IT REALLY ISN'T
MY HUMBLEST APOLOGIES FOR PUTTING YOU TO SLEEP, BUT-
HOWEVER, IN REGARDS TO WHAT WE WERE DISCUSSING PREVIOUSLY-
HUH?
BAIT?
AS BAIT I THINK.

COME ON OUT!
NEW ORDERS FROM UP TOP
RYUUJI,
WHA-?
YOU ARE ALL THOROUGHLY INVOLVED IN IT ALREADY
YOU'LL BE DEFENDING THIS POSITON.
IS IT AN ENEMY ATTACK!?
THE IMMOBILITY WAS KILLING ME!
GREAT!!
HN
BUT FOR TACTICAL PURPOSES, AT LEAST...
STOP WHINING!
WE ALREADY HAVE SUFFICIENT MANPOWER ON THE FIELD.
WHAT THE- !?

SMOKE FROM A LANDMINE
WHAT'S GOING ON OUT THERE?
WHAT WAS THAT!?
HUNTING SOMETHING FAINT AND OUT OF REACH
MY SON HAS COME
SEARCHING FOR ME

THE TARGET IS A SOLID-STATE SYSTEMS STAFF NAMED ARUKEMEIA
APPARENT AGE IS IN THE EARLY FORTIES
ざわ
THE FORTIES!?
...I'VE NEVER HEARD OF ANYTHING LIKE THAT
HE'S NOT TRULY A REPLICANT
THERE ARE REPLICANTS THAT OLD!?
HE'S AN ANATOMICAL SYSTEMS MODEL OF THE HUMAN BODY
THAT'S NOT SURPRISING

IT'S PROHIBITED TECHNOLOGY, ABANDONED TWENTY YEARS AGO.
SPREAD OUT!
THE TARGET'S STRAIGHT AHE..OF. AIM THAT WAY-
DON'T DROP YOUR GUARD!
ゴロ
ゴロ
!

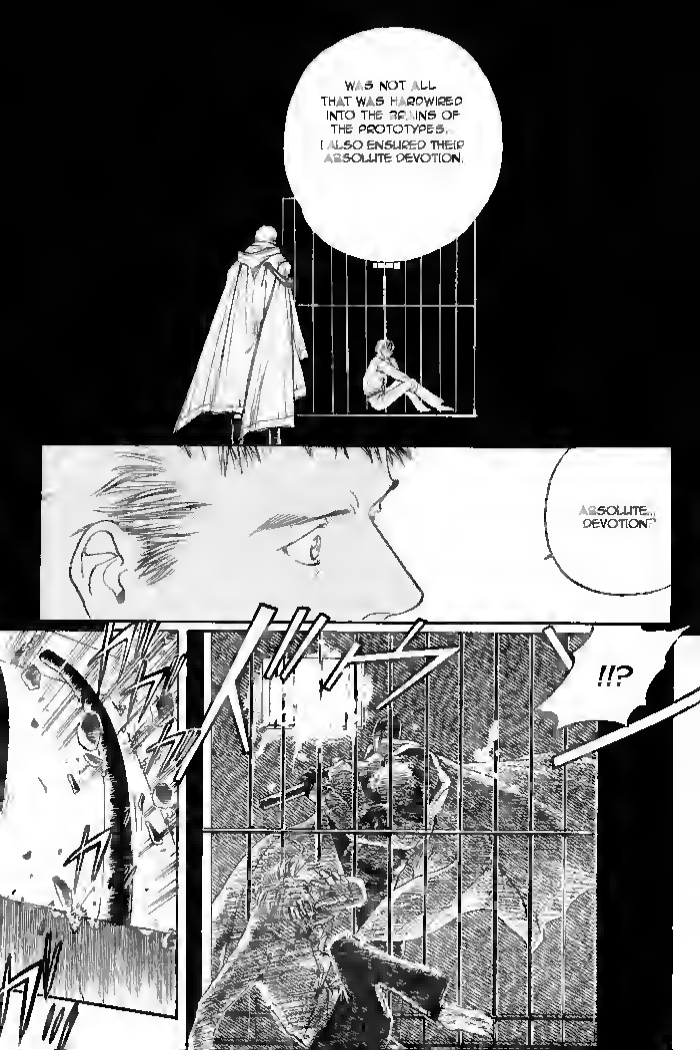
HUMAN ANATOMY, ILLNESSES, MATTERS INVOLVING THE STRUCTURE AND PHYSIOLOGY OF THE BODY-
A MEANS TO STUDY THESE WAS THE PURPOSE OF THE SYSTEMS STAFF PROJECT
AT FIRST, WE SET OUT TO MIMIC THE SHAPE OF A PERSON
IN THE END, IT REQUIRED MANY THOUSANDS OF PROTOTYPE MODELS
AND NEARLY A HUNDRED YEARS OF RESEARCH TO ACHIEVE SUCH INTRICATE RESULTS
NEXT, THE BIOLOGICAL PROCESSES
AND THE CIRCULATORY ORGANS

APPARENTLY IT CONTAINS SOME KIND OF "PRECIOUS DATA" OR WHATEVER
LISTEN UP! OUR ORDERS ARE
THE TARGET WILL DEFINITELY MAKE ITS ATTACK HERE-
TO CAPTURE IT IN A FUNCTIONAL STATE!
USING PROHIBITED TECHNOLOGY FROM TWENTY YEARS AGO?
SO, THAT MODEL OF A HUMAN- YOU MADE IT?
BECAUSE THIS IS WHERE THAT MAN IS.
WELL... HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT OLD COMPUTERS?
BUT WHY DID YOU MAKE IT FORTY YEARS OLD?
AND WHY IS IT AFTER YOU?
IN THE EARLY DAYS OF COMPUTER MANUFACTURING
HUH?

-AND?
THERE WAS NO LANGUAGE-BASED METHOD OF PROGRAMMING
A COMPUTER'S PROGRAMMING WAS CONTAINED IN ITS INTERNAL WIRING. IN SHORT, EVERYTHING WAS HARDWIRED
A LIVING BEING IS JUST THE SAME. A BRAIN IS NOTHING BUT THE NERVE FIBERS IT IS MADE UP OF.
THEREFORE WE PRIORITIZED BASIC HARDWARE SETTINGS AND EXPERINCE OVER KNOWLEDGE, MEMORY, AND THAT SORT OF THING
THE BASIC SETTINGS WERE HARDWIRED IN
AND ARE EQUIVALENT TO INSTINCT
THE EFFICIENCY OF THE SYSTEM LED TO IT'S MISAPPROPRIATION
NO ONE NOTICED A FURTHER SECRET HAD ALSO BEEN HARDWIRED INSIDE THEM
BUT AS THE GENERATIONS OF PROTOTYPE MODELS PILED UP

IT WAS A HUNDRED YEARS BEFORE WE ARRIVED AT ARUKEMEIA
UNTIL THE PROJECT WAS SUSPENDED, I WANTED TO SEE IT THROUGH WITH MY OWN EYES-
BEGINNING TO END
MAYBE ABOUT TWENTY?
BUT BY THE WAY YOU TALK, I'M GUESSING YOU'RE NOT
HOW OLD DO I LOOK TO YOU?
SOMETHING LIKE THAT
IS IT. DONOR BODY PARTS? CYBER-NETICS?
ALL TOO PERFECT-
BETTER THAN I EVER COULD HAVE WISHED FOR
"HE" IS A PERFECT EXPRESSION OF HIS FUNCTION
THE ACCUMULATED RESULTS OF ALL THE PREVIOUS SYSTEMS STAFF,
MY MASTERPIECE-
ARUKEMEIA OPERATES ENTIRELY IN HIS ROLE AS A HUMAN BEING

THE ULTIMATE END POINT OF THE SYSTEMS STAFF PROJECT WAS
THE AGEING PROCESS
"HE" INCORPORATED OUR MOST CONCLUSIVE RESULTS REGARDING THE PROBLEM OF HUMAN IMMORTALITY
OUT EXPRESSION OF THESE RESULTS


WAS NOT ALL THAT WAS HARDWIRED INTO THE BRAINS OF THE PROTOTYPES. I ALSO ENSURED THEIR ABSOLUTE DEVOTION.
ABSOLUTE... DEVOTION"
!!?

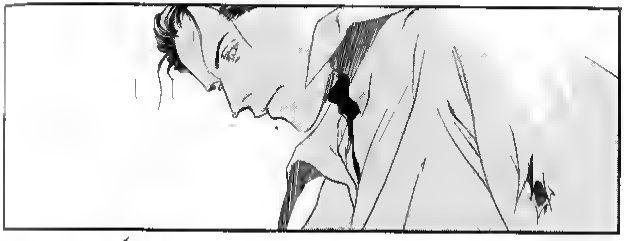
THE MOBILE GUN BATTERY!!
THE FACT THAT WE ACCUMULATE EXPERIENCE AS WE AGE IS WHAT GIVES US THE ABILITY TO ACCOMPLISH OUR GOALS
ISN'T HE JUST A DAMN DOLL?!
WHAT IS HE DOING?!
NOTHING
BUT WHAT DOES HE WANT FROM YOU?
HE HAS PURSUED ME MANY TIMES, AND I'VE ESCAPED HIS ATTACK MANY TIMES AS WELL
AND WITH EACH REPETITION-
APPARENTLY, NOTHING
SERVICE ON HIS FREAKIN' WARRANTY OR SOMETHING?!
NO MATTER HOW SEVERELY INJURED, WHAT HE LEARNS IS THE BATTLE ITSELF.

HE IS ACTING ON INSTINCT ALONE
LIKE A NEWBORN BABY BIRD,
HE'S EXPECTING TO FIND A PROTECTOR-
CHASING AFTER ONE,
WITH HIS WHOLE BODY AND SOUL
CHASING ME.

WHEN I WAS YOUNG I WANTED TO FEEL LIKE THE CREATOR.
THEY RESPONDED WITH HUMAN-LIKE EMOTIONS.
THEY WERE STILL "CHILDREN", AND I BEHAVED LIKE AN ARROGANT GOD
THEY FEARED ME WORSHIPPED ME LOVED ME
THAT THIRST HAS BEEN BURNING FOR A HUNDRED YEARS

school was tedious.
home- tedious.

somehow or other,
the days drift by.



and i've gained only
what anyone can,

cheap excitment
and stories.

destroying any obstacle.
ruled by instinct, chasing one human life.
this intensity I don't know-

NGH!
EVEN IF IT'S JUST A CHANCE IMPRINTING THAT NO ONE WANTED STILL-

WHAT FEELING IS IT-
..HN
TEACH ME THAT
THE ONE HE SAID SUFFUSES YOU COMPLETELY?
LOOK ME IN THE EYES, ARUKEMEIA

AHH-
THERE YOU ARE

SUCH
BEAUTIFUL
EYES

SNF GUNSHOTS

SO-
YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT EVEN THOUGH IT WAS DAMAGED IN THE COUNTER-ATTACK,
IT STILL ESCAPED
THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR WHAT I ALLOWED TO HAPPEN
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'VE USED THEM ALL UP!
AND YOU'VE VIOLATED ALL YOUR ORDERS FROM START TO FINISH
BUT WE'LL DEAL WITH THAT LATER
WE NEED TO SEND A REPORT TO HEADQUARTERS FOR INSTRUCTIONS
ON WHERE TO TRANSPORT THE CASUALTIES
RYUUJI, YOU GO BACK AND GUARD THE PRISONER FOR NOW
THEN I'LL TAKE MY LEAVE

I TOLD THE BOSS HE RAN AWAY.
AND WE'RE TAKING CARE OF THE REMAINS OF THE PEOPLE THAT YOUR DOLL KILLED
IS THAT SO?
BUT THE WHOLE USING YOU AS BAIT THING-
FROM WHERE I'M STANDING, IT JUST MAKES THE KILLING WORSE
THIS NEEDS TO STAY A SECRET
I KNOW
ARE YOU RELIEVED?
OR LONELY?

I DON'T KNOW.
MOSTLY-
I'M JUST SO TIRED
WHAT LUXURY.
TO BE TIRED OF WHAT I WANT SO MUCH

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING

WHY ARE YOU IN MY WAY?
WELL THEN, SHALL WE GO?
ばさ
I'M NOT GOING TO WHERE SOMEONE ELSE IS
I'M GOING BACK TO MY MASTER
MY MASTER IS OVER THERE
JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE AND I'LL REACH HIM.

HE CAN'T BE NOWHERE
IF HE'S NOWHERE
THEN I HAVE NOWHERE TO GO
YOU'LL GO WITH ME
YOUR MASTER'S NOT THERE ANYMORE
THEN- I'LL SEARCH FOR HIM.
NOT ANYMORE
THE MASTER YOU'VE BEEN PURSUING ALL THIS TIME, HE'S ALREADY GONE
HE'S ALREADY NOWHERE

I'LL BE AT YOUR SIDE
I'LL SHOW YOU THE WORLD,
GIVE YOU WHAT YOUR MASTER DIDN'T
I'LL REWRITE YOUR HEART
NO MATTER HOW MANY YEARS IT TAKES

楽園の果／END
2001年季刊MAGAZINE ZERO春号掲載

translation notes

THIS TEXT BUBBLE, WHICH I TRANSLATED AS "SUCH BEAUTIFUL EYES", ACTUALLY SAYS (APPROXIMATELY) "INTENSELY/VIOLENTLY BEAUTIFUL EYES"

THE ORIGINAL FITS BETTER WITH THE STORY, BUT ENGLISH FAVORS BREVITY IN MOMENTS OF TENSION OR INTIMACY

I COULDN'T FIGURE OUT HOW TO FIT ALL THE MEANING IN WITHOUT MAKING IT SOUND RIDICULOUSLY OVERBLOWN FOR THE CIRCUMSTANCES- SO I JUST DID MY BEST SORRY

THE CHARACTER 心 - IS USUALLY READ AS "KOKORO", AND TRANSLATED AS "HEART" (IT CAN ALSO MEAN "MIND" OR "CORE SELF")

BUT IN THIS PANEL, THE AUTHOR HAS WRITTEN "PUROGURAMU", THE JAPANESE PRONUNCIATION OF THE ENGLISH WORD "PROGRAM" NEXT TO IT

THIS MAKES THE PANEL SAY TWO THINGS AT ONCE. IT READS BOTH "I'LL REWRITE YOUR HEART" AND "I'LL OVERWRITE YOUR PROGRAM"

ERRORS- MY JAPANESE IS PRETTY WEAK. I APOLOGIZE FOR THE ERRORS THAT THE SCAN IS NO DOUBT RIDDLED WITH

little sister

scans

credits:

raws- anonymous benefactor
english proofs- pluslerules
everything else- chou tomaraseru